

Air Force Court-Martial Summaries

May 2017



This report lists convictions and acquittals for general and special courts-martial. The Air Force publishes these cases for deterrence purposes. Each military justice case must be resolved on its own facts. There are no expected or required dispositions, outcomes, or sentences in any military justice case, other than those resulting from the individual facts and merits of a case and the application of due process of law. Adjudged sentences reported here do not reflect any relief on the sentence that may have been granted during clemency or on appeal. When an Airman agrees to plead guilty to charges in return for some action by the convening authority, those pretrial agreements are noted and any impact on the adjudged sentence is included in the summary.

AIR FORCE COURT-MARTIAL SUMMARIES – May 2017 (40 Cases)

General Court-Martial Convictions

1. At Kirtland AFB, NM, Captain Michael S. Herring was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of controlled substances. He was sentenced to a dismissal and confinement for 45 days. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.
2. At Ramstein AB, Germany, Senior Airman Benjamin L. Hann was found guilty by officer members of negligent homicide, obstructing justice, false official statement, and willful dereliction of duty for driving with a suspended license. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 4 years, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances.
3. At Peterson AFB, CO, Staff Sergeant Michael A. Gans was found guilty by officer and enlisted members of sexual assault. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 20 months, and reduction to Airman Basic (E-1).
4. At Andersen AFB, Guam, Senior Airman Philip H. Aiken was found guilty by military judge alone of viewing child pornography. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 13 months, and reduction to Airman Basic (E-1). The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.
5. At Cannon AFB, NM, Captain Ryerson L. Clifford was found guilty by military judge alone of aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon, assault consummated by a battery, child endangerment, and wrongfully discharging a firearm. He was sentenced to a dismissal and confinement for 16 months. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.
6. At Ramstein AB, Germany, Senior Master Sergeant David S. Haynes was found guilty by officer and enlisted members of false official statement and willful dereliction of duty for engaging in an unprofessional relationship with a subordinate. He was sentenced to reduction to Senior Airman (E-4), forfeiture of \$1,000 pay per month for 2 months, and a reprimand.
7. At Dover AFB, DE, Technical Sergeant Jenon N. McPhatter was found guilty by officer and enlisted members of attempted sexual assault. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 4 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances.
8. At JB Elmendorf-Richardson, AK, Airman First Class Paul S. Hebert was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful distribution of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 3 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and a reprimand. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.
9. At Aviano AB, Italy, Airman Fabio E. Tinjaca was found guilty by military judge alone of assault consummated by a battery and communicating a threat. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 288 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

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10. At Sheppard AFB, TX, Airman First Class Michael A. Cunningham was found guilty by military judge alone of attempted sexual abuse of a child. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 6 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

11. At Altus AFB, OK, Airman First Class Petr K. Bessmertnyy was found guilty by officer members of making and distributing indecent recordings of the private area of another without consent. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 6 years, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances.

12. At JB San Antonio-Randolph, TX, Technical Sergeant Maryam A. Baker was found guilty by officer members of violating a lawful regulation by forming a personal relationship with cadets, negligent dereliction of duty for providing alcohol to underage persons, and engaging in an unprofessional relationship with a superior officer. She was sentenced to confinement for 3 months, reduction to Airman First Class (E-3), forfeiture of \$1,000 pay per month for 3 months, and a reprimand.

13. At Eglin AFB, FL, Staff Sergeant Jesse L. Brazell was found guilty by officer and enlisted members of sexual assault of a child and sexual abuse of a child. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 7 years, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances.

14. At Kadena AB, Japan, Senior Airman William R. Sherrod was found guilty by officer members of rape and mail theft. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 6 years, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and a reprimand.

15. At JB Langley-Eustis, VA, Airman First Class Zacarie J. Tanner was found guilty by military judge alone of sexual assault of a child, sexual abuse of a child, and distribution of child pornography. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 8 years, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and total forfeiture of pay and allowances. Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the convening authority will not approve confinement in excess of 5 years.

General Court-Martial Acquittals

16. At Hurlburt Field, FL, an enlisted Airman was acquitted by military judge alone of sexual assault.

17. At JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI, an enlisted Airman was acquitted by officer and enlisted members of abusive sexual contact.

18. At Peterson AFB, CO, an enlisted Airman was acquitted by military judge alone of sexual assault and assault consummated by a battery.

19. At Incirlik AB, Turkey, an enlisted Airman was acquitted by officer members of sexual assault.

AIR FORCE COURT-MARTIAL SUMMARIES – May 2017 (40 Cases)

Special Court-Martial Convictions

20. At Cannon AFB, NM, Airman Rodrigo Palomo Blanco was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use and introduction of a controlled substance onto a military installation, reckless driving, and being absent without leave. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 11 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and forfeiture of \$1,066 pay per month for 11 months. Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the convening authority will not approve confinement in excess of 9 months.

21. At McConnell AFB, KS, Airman First Class Jordan K. Harrigle was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of controlled substances and negligent dereliction of duty for underage drinking. He was sentenced to confinement for 5 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and forfeiture of \$1,066 pay per month for 5 months. Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the convening authority will not approve confinement in excess of 3 months.

22. At Vandenberg AFB, CA, Staff Sergeant Jeffrey W. Cranfield was found guilty by military judge alone of drunken driving and negligent dereliction of duty for failing to report a state conviction for driving under the influence. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 100 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and a reprimand.

23. At JB San Antonio-Randolph, TX, Staff Sergeant Andrew J.M. Pineda was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of controlled substances. He was sentenced to confinement for 14 days, hard labor without confinement for 60 days, and reduction to Airman Basic (E-1). The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

24. At Travis AFB, CA, Airman First Class Bryan A. Fajardo was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to confinement for 30 days, hard labor without confinement for 30 days, restriction to base for 30 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), forfeiture of \$500 pay, and a reprimand. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

25. At Sheppard AFB, TX, Technical Sergeant Brandon J. Lynch was found guilty by officer and enlisted members of communicating a threat and violating a lawful regulation by mistreating a trainee. He was sentenced to hard labor without confinement for 30 days, reduction to Staff Sergeant (E-5), and a reprimand.

26. At Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, Senior Airman Richard J. Noel, Jr. was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use and introduction of a controlled substance onto a military installation. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 90 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and a reprimand. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

27. At Mountain Home AFB, ID, Senior Airman Reginald S. Russ was found guilty by officer and enlisted members of wrongful appropriation of military property valued over \$500 and false official statement. He was sentenced to confinement for 45 days, hard labor without confinement for 3 months, restriction to base for 2 months, and reduction to Airman (E-2).

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28. At Dyess AFB, TX, Airman First Class Danntaye Bell was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of controlled substances. He was sentenced to confinement for 60 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and forfeiture of \$1,000 pay per month for 2 months. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

29. At Beale AFB, CA, Senior Airman James W.C. Lemere was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to confinement for 30 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), forfeiture of \$1,000 pay, and a reprimand. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

30. At MacDill AFB, FL, Airman First Class Mallory E. Tompkins was found guilty by officer members of wrongful use of controlled substances. She was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 2 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for 2 months. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

31. At Nellis AFB, NV, Airman First Class Francisco J. Gonzalez Gonzalez was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful distribution and use of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 60 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and a reprimand. Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the convening authority will not approve the bad conduct discharge.

32. At Hill AFB, UT, Technical Sergeant Brian J. White was found guilty by officer members of assault consummated by a battery. He was sentenced to hard labor without confinement for 30 days, restriction to base for 30 days, forfeiture of \$100 pay per month for 6 months, and a reprimand.

33. At Holloman AFB, NM, Senior Airman Jeffrey D. Heath II was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of controlled substances. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 3 months, and reduction to Airman Basic (E-1). Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the convening authority will not approve the bad conduct discharge.

34. At Ramstein AB, Germany, Senior Airman Adam J. Longfellow was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful distribution, use, and introduction of a controlled substance onto a military installation. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 140 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and forfeiture of \$950 pay per month for 7 months. Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the convening authority will not approve confinement in excess of 120 days.

35. At Little Rock AFB, AR, Airman First Class Darrell R. Richmond, Jr. was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to confinement for 2 months and reduction to Airman Basic (E-1). The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

36. At Keesler AFB, MS, Airman Javonte K. Jones was found guilty by officer members of assault consummated by a battery. He was sentenced to confinement for 15 days, hard labor without confinement for 3 months, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), forfeiture of \$1,066 pay per month for 2 months, and a reprimand. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

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37. At Holloman AFB, NM, Airman First Class Brandon A. Hamner was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of controlled substances. He was sentenced to confinement for 30 days, hard labor without confinement for 30 days, reduction to Airman Basic (E-1), and forfeiture of \$500 pay. The pretrial agreement had no effect on the adjudged sentence.

38. At Tinker AFB, OK, Staff Sergeant Jason R. Morgan was found guilty by military judge alone of wrongful use of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to confinement for 75 days and reduction to Airman Basic (E-1).

Special Court-Martial Acquittals

39. At JB Elmendorf-Richardson, AK, an enlisted Airman was acquitted by officer members of wrongful use of a controlled substance.

40. At Dover AFB, DE, an enlisted Airman was acquitted by officer members of negligent dereliction of duty.